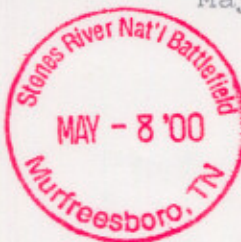


4330 Paseo de los Rancheros  
Tucson, Arizona 85745-9728  
May 4, 2000

Mr. Jim Lewis, Park Ranger  
Stones River National Battlefield,  
3501 Old Nashville Hwy.  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129



11/05/10  
Sept. Ranger  
Chief Ranger  
Staff Ranger  
X Jim Ray  
ENP&IA  
Adm Off  
Adm Clerk  
Chief Maint  
Maint Wkr-7  
Maint Wkr-6  
File  
Library  
Remarks

Dear Mr. Lewis,

I want to really thank you for the copies of the letters of Eugene A. Lyford, First Sargent of Company I, 88 th Illinois, who was killed at the Stones River Battle on 12/31/1862. It is entirely possible that Thomas F. Norris, the first son of my great, great grandfather Rufus L. Norris, actually knew Sgt. Lyford. From the Lyford letters, they must have shared the same choking dust as they went south from the Perrysville Battle on Oct. 8, 1862.

The above letters were a rare glimpse of what it must have been like. Not a lot of fun. Sgt. Lyford was from Port Byron, Ill. which is about 80 miles north (its just north of Moline on the Mississippi River) of La Harpe in Hancock County, Ill which is where Thomas F. Norris was from.

There is an interesting book titled "Illinois In The Civil War" by Victor Hicken( Univ. Ill Press, 1966) who was a Professor at Western Ill. Univ. in Macomb, just about 20 miles east of La Harpe. What makes the book most interesting is that he based it on the written accounts from letters sent home by the troops. Those letters were in the Ill. State Archives. Two parts make for interesting reading. His Introduction. And Chapter V, entitled "Death Under The Cedars" which described the Stones River Battle. I recommend those parts of the book.

Coupled with "The Narrative of a Private Soldier ....." by Charles Lewis Francis (1879) parts that I got at Perrsville last Fall, I now have a much better idea of what happen up to Thomas F. Norris being wounded & captured at Stones River, only to die at Annapolis two months later after being exchanged.

Again, many thanks for the letters & other info. I hope to be able to visit your site on an eastern trip. Possibly later this year, altho I annot say for sure at this time.

Sincerely yours,

E. F. Riebling

Eugene F. Riebling

P.S. - I am enclosing page 111 (a copy) from Hicken's book mentioned above. It is entirely possible that Sgt. Henry Freeman's wounded friend "from an Illinois Regiment", also a Sgt., could have been the Sgt. Eugene Lyford who wrote the letters that you sent. Just a thought.

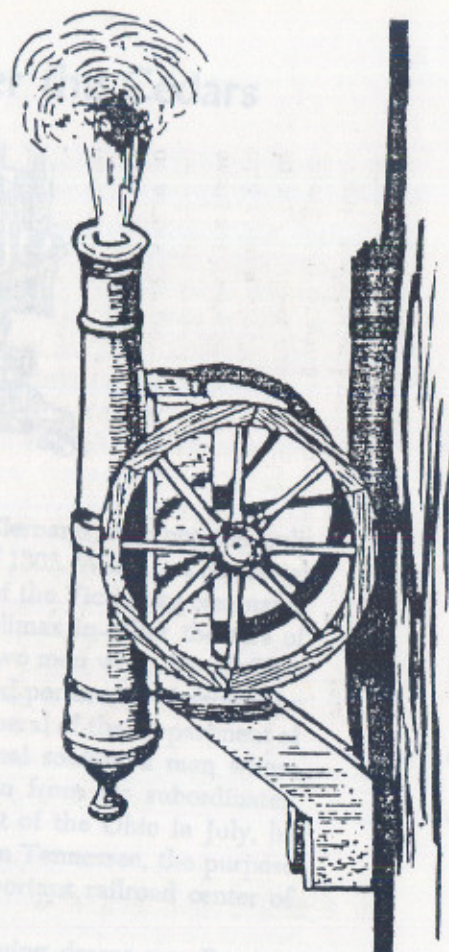


9/24/99

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# ILLINOIS IN THE CIVIL WAR



VICTOR HICKEN

ing Buell and headed northward, for a moment, the war assumed, one general threatening Chattanooga with a strike at Kentucky and, River.

olving many factors. As McClellan arrived in Illinois in September, the Copperheads, emboldened by the bitter anti-war Democrats, soliciting and getting support. Foremost among these was the Ohio politician, who was both since he already had strong support. Bragg's invasion of Kentucky was ordered to check his

h other for three days south of September 21, Bragg veered his forced march straight into Louisville on September 29. There new and untried troops which the defense of the city by General who had marched a division crucial night of April 6. This raised in the great fall recruitment, and Ohio. The governors of by Bragg's march north that into Kentucky with almost no 123rd, raised in the Charleston comfortably encamped in the. Only its commanding officer, gun fired in anger. The 123rd kly that it had never had the arely had its troops drilled as

berland, Vol. VII of The Army in Report of the Adjutant General, Pt. 1, 1023-24.